

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SS-15
NSC-05 /068 W
-----110736Z 027681 /14

R 102215Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4688

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3880

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB PLAB ILO EC
SUBJ: ILO/ECUADOR HANDBILL

REF: (A) GENEVA 4634; (B) QUITO 3467

1. REF (B) (GENEVA ACTION) PROVIDES BRIEF BACKGROUND ON RECENT ILO RELATED EVENTS IN ECUADOR. CTE (COMMUNIST CONFEDERATION) HAS SENT A REPRESENTATIVE, EDGAR PONCE, TO GENEVA BECAUSE OF DELEGATE FIGHT WITH THE MINISTER OF LABOR. WE SUSPECT THAT PONCE IS THE SOURCE OF RUMORS AND HANDBILL.

2. REAL SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT LESS APOCALYPTIC THAN THE HANDBILL APPARENTLY PAINTS. ON MAY 18 ECUADOR'S THREE NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS CARRIED OUT A JOINT NATIONAL STRIKE THAT WAS RULED ILLEGAL BY THE GOVERNMENT. FOLLOWING THE STRIKE THE GOE ISSUED ARREST ORDERS FOR A NUMBER OF THE STRIKE'S PRINCIPALS. CURRENTLY, AT LEAST FOUR ARREST ORDERS ARE OUTSTANDING AND ONE TRADE UNION LEADER IS CURRENTLY HELD. NO UNIONISTS HAVE BEEN SENTENCED.

3. SITUATION CURRENTLY COMPLICATED BY A NATIONAL TEACHERS' STRIKE THAT HAS CONTINUED SINCE MAY 18. SOME TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND FINED FOR PARTICIPATION IN SPORADIC STREET
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DEMONSTRATIONS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE OCCASIONED VIOLENCE. THESE HAVE RESULTED IN TWO DEATHS AND NUMEROUS INJURIES.

4. GOE ISSUANCE OF ARREST ORDERS FOR STRIKE LEADERS IS A NEW ELEMENT AND IS PART OF WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE A NEW GOVERNMENT HARD-LINE TOWARD UNION ORGANIZATIONS. HOWEVER, TO THIS POINT, THE GOE HAS DONE NOTHING EXCEPT TAKE STEPS AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN ILLEGAL LABOR ACTIVITIES, AS DEFINED
BY THE GOE.

5. AS REFTEL (B) INDICATES, THE THREE NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS
ARE FURIOUS AT THE GOE FOR HAVING, AS A REPRISAL FOR THE STRIKE,
NAMED AN ENEMY OF THE THREE NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATIONS
AS THE LABOR DELEGATE TO THE ILO, IN SPITE OF THE FACT
THAT THE DELEGATE'S LABOR ORGANIZATION IS NOT EVEN LEGALLY
RECOGNIZED BY THE GOE. THE NAMING OF THIS INDIVIDUAL VIOLATES
ECUADOR'S PAST PRACTICE IN WHICH THE DELEGATE IS ROTATED
AMONG THE THREE NATIONAL CONFEDERATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES, TEACHERS, CIVIL DISORDERS, STRIKE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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